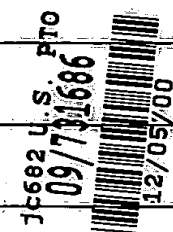


INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION  PTO-1449	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 17616-845	SERIAL NO. Unassigned
	APPLICANT Casscells et al.	
	FILING DATE Herewith	GROUP Unknown



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EXAMINER'S INITIALS	PATENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
DK	3,178,728	4-20-65	Christensen	3	1	10-22-62
	3,579,643	5-25-71	Morgan	3	1	12-12-68
	3,776,230	12-4-73	Neeffe	128	260	4-18-73
	3,867,728	2-25-75	Substad et al.	3	1	4-5-73
	3,879,767	4-29-75	Substad	3	1	2-11-74
	3,886,600	6-3-75	Kahn et al.	3	1	9-26-73
	3,938,198	2-17-76	Kahn et al.	3	1.912	9-27-73
	3,987,499	10-26-76	Scharbach et al.	3	1.91	8-9-74
	3,992,725	11-23-76	Homsy	3	1	10-17-74
	4,043,342	8-23-77	Morrison, Jr.	128	303.14	2-26-76
	4,085,466	4-25-78	Goodfellow et al.	3	1.91	8-4-77

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	PATENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
RK	637118	15/12/78	U.S.S.R.	A61B	17/18		XX
	1 340 451	12/12/73	Great Britain	A61F	1/00		
	1,122,634	11/09/56	France	A61F	19/0		XX
	0 479 482 A1	08/04/92	Europe	A61B	17/39		
	0 479 482 B1	01/05/96	Europe	A61B	17/39		
	0 542 412 A1	19/05/93	Europe	A61B	17/39		

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**

	Christian, C. et al., "Allograft Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction with Patellar Tendon: An Endoscopic Technique", <i>Operative Techniques in Sports Medicine</i> , Vol. 1, No. 1, Jan. 1993, pp. 50-57.
	Haupt, J. et al., "Experimental Study of Temperature Distributions and Thermal Transport During Radiofrequency Current Therapy of the Intervertebral Disc", <i>SPINE</i> , Vol. 21, No. 15, (1996), pp. 1808-13.
	Troussier, B. et al., "Percutaneous Intradiscal Radio-Frequency Thermocoagulation: A Cadaveric Study", <i>SPINE</i> , Vol. 20, No. 15, (Aug. 1995), pp. 1713-18.
EXAMINER <i>Heaton</i>	DATE CONSIDERED <i>6/3/02</i>

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION  PTO-1449			ATTY. DOCKET NO. 17616-845		SERIAL NO. Unassigned		
			APPLICANT Casscells et al.				
			FILING DATE Herewith		GROUP Unknown		
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
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<div style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">DK</div> <div style="border-left: 2px solid black; height: 100%; margin-left: 5px;"></div>	4,129,470	12-12-78	Homsy	156	155	6-7-76	
	4,224,696	9-30-80	Murray et al.	3	1.911	9-8-78	
	4,224,697	9-30-80	Murray et al.	3	1.911	9-8-78	
	4,326,529	4-27-82	Doss et al.	128	303.1	12-5-79	
	4,344,193	8-17-82	Kenny	3	1.911	11-28-80	
	4,362,160	12-7-82	Hiltebrandt	128	303.15	7-17-80	
	4,375,220	3-1-83	Matvias	128	804	5-9-80	
	4,381,007	4-26-83	Doss	128	303.1	4-30-81	
	4,397,314	8-9-83	Vaguine	128	399	8-3-81	
	4,483,338	11-20-84	Bloom et al.	128	303.13	6-12-81	
	4,517,965	5-21-85	Ellison	128	20	6-27-83	
	4,517,975	5-21-85	Garito et al.	128	303.13	6-6-83	
	4,593,691	6-10-86	Lindstrom et al.	128	303.14	7-13-83	
	4,597,379	7-1-86	Kihn et al.	128	1 R	3-30-83	
	<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>						
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<div style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">V</div> <div style="border-left: 2px solid black; height: 100%; margin-left: 5px;"></div>	0 572 131 A1	01/12/93	Europe	A61B	17/39		
	WO 85/02762	04/07/85	PCT	A61B	17/36		XX
	WO 93/01774	04/02/93	PCT	A61F	7/12		XX
	WO 95/20360	03/08/95	PCT	A61B	17/39		
	WO 95/30373	16/11/95	PCT	A61B	17/00		
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>							
EXAMINER <span style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">Kearney</span>				DATE CONSIDERED <span style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">6/3/2</span>			

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			APPLICANT Casscells et al.				
			FILING DATE Herewith		GROUP Unknown		
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	PATENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE	
Bk	4,811,733	3-14-89	Borsanyi et al.	128	303.14	12-29-86	
	4,873,976	10-17-89	Schreiber	128	334 R	2-28-84	
	4,894,063	1-16-90	Nashef	623	13	5-24-83	
	4,895,148	1-23-90	Bays et al.	606	213	3-22-89	
	4,907,585	3-13-90	Schachar	606	28	12-3-87	
	4,907,589	3-13-90	Cosman	606	34	4-29-88	
	4,924,865	5-15-90	Bays et al.	606	77	5-16-88	
	4,944,727	7-31-90	McCoy	604	95	10-2-87	
	4,950,234	8-21-90	Fujioka et al.	604	60	5-25-88	
	4,966,597	10-30-90	Cosman	606	50	11-4-88	
	4,976,709	12-11-90	Sand	606	5	6-30-89	
	4,976,715	12-11-90	Bays et al.	606	77	1-30-90	
	4,998,933	3-12-91	Eggers et al.	606	41	6-10-88	
	5,007,908	4-16-91	Rydell	606	47	9-29-89	
	5,009,656	4-23-91	Reimels	606	48	8-17-89	
	5,100,402	3-31-92	Fan	606	41	10-5-90	
	5,103,804	4-14-92	Abele et al.	128	4	7-3-90	
	5,178,620	1-12-93	Eggers et al.	606	41	2-22-91	
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	PATENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>							
EXAMINER <i>Kosman</i>				DATE CONSIDERED <i>6/3/2</i>			

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			APPLICANT Casscells et al.				
			FILING DATE Herewith		GROUP Unknown		
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
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<div style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">dk</div> <div style="border-left: 2px solid black; height: 100%; margin-left: 5px;"></div> <div style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">↓</div>	5,191,883	3-9-93	Lennox et al.	128	401	5-22-90	
	5,201,729	4-13-93	Hertzmann et al.	606	2	11-30-90	
	5,201,730	4-13-93	Easley et al.	606	4	1-3-92	
	5,213,097	5-25-93	Zeindler	128	401	7-13-92	
	5,230,334	7-27-93	Klopotek	128	399	1-22-92	
	5,242,441	9-7-93	Avitall	606	41	2-24-92	
	5,261,906	11-16-93	Pennino et al.	606	46	12-9-91	
	5,275,151	1-4-94	Shockey et al.	128	4	12-11-91	
	5,284,479	2-8-94	de Jong	604	60	7-13-92	
	5,304,169	4-19-94	Sand	606	5	8-17-92	
	5,311,858	5-17-94	Adair	128	4	6-15-92	
	5,320,115	6-14-94	Kenna	128	898	1-16-91	
	5,323,778	6-28-94	Kandarpa et al.	128	653.2	11-5-91	
	5,334,193	8-2-94	Nardella	606	41	11-13-92	
	5,348,554	9-20-94	Imran et al.	606	41	12-1-92	
	5,366,443	11-22-94	Eggers et al.	604	114	10-9-92	
	5,433,739	7-18-95	Sluijter et al.	607	99	11-2-93	
5,458,596	10-17-95	Lax et al.	606	31	5-6-94		
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	PATENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
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<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>							
EXAMINER <span style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">Kearney</span>				DATE CONSIDERED <span style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">6/3/2</span>			

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			APPLICANT Casscells et al.				
			FILING DATE Herewith		GROUP Unknown		
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<i>BK</i> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; height: 100%; width: 10px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	5,465,737	11-14-95	Schachar	128	898	1-30-95	
	5,484,403	1-16-96	Yoakum et al.	604	59	4-5-94	
	5,484,432	1-16-96	Sand	606	5	4-14-94	
	5,484,435	1-16-96	Fleenor et al.	606	46	11-8-93	
	5,507,812	4-16-96	Moore	623	13	4-26-94	
	5,514,130	5-7-96	Baker	606	41	10-11-94	
	5,542,920	8-6-96	Cherif Cheikh	604	57	9-12-94	
	5,569,242	10-29-96	Lax et al.	606	42	2-16-95	
	2,090,923	8-24-37	Wappler	128	303.15	7-12-35	
	3,856,015	12-24-74	Iglesias	128	303.15	6-8-73	
	3,945,375	3-23-76	Banko	128	6	4-30-73	
	4,134,406	1-16-79	Iglesias	128	303.15	10-7-77	
	4,476,862	10-16-84	Pao	128	303.17	9-30-82	
	4,590,934	5-27-86	Malis et al.	128	303.14	5-18-83	
	4,651,734	3-24-87	Doss et al.	128	303.14	2-8-85	
	4,815,462	3-28-89	Clark	128	305	4-6-87	
	4,838,859	6-13-89	Strassmann	604	95	5-19-87	
	4,955,882	9-11-90	Hakky	606	14	3-30-88	
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	PATENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
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<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>							
EXAMINER <i>Keenan</i>				DATE CONSIDERED <i>6/3/2</i>			

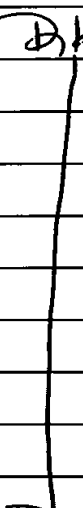
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			FILING DATE Herewith		GROUP Unknown		
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	PATENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE	
BK	5,085,657	2-4-92	Ben-Simhon	606	42	10-9-90	
	5,098,430	3-24-92	Fleenor	606	42	3-16-90	
	5,186,181	2-16-93	Franconi et al.	128	804	7-27-90	
	5,192,267	3-9-93	Shapira et al.	604	22	3-28-91	
	5,308,311	5-3-94	Eggers et al.	606	28	5-1-92	
	5,342,357	8-30-94	Nardella	606	40	11-13-92	
	5,352,868	10-4-94	Denen et al.	219	501	5-1-92	
	5,354,331	10-11-94	Schachar	623	4	7-15-92	
	5,364,395	11-15-94	West, Jr.	606	46	5-14-93	
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EXAMINER'S INITIALS	PATENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
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BK	WO 92/10142	25/06/92	PCT	A61B	17/36		
	WO 93/20984	28/10/93	PCT	B26D	1/11		
	WO 95/01814	19/01/95	PCT	A61N	5/02		
	WO 95/13113	18/05/95	PCT	A61N	5/02		
	WO 95/18575	13/07/95	PCT	A61B	17/39		
	WO 96/39914	19/12/96	PCT	A61B	1/00		
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	Beadling, L., "Bi-Polar electrosurgical devices: Sculpting the future of arthroscopy", <i>Orthopedics today</i> , Vol. 17, No. 1, January 1997, 4 pages.						
	Ellman International Mfg., Inc., 1989, Catalog, pp. 1-15, 20.						
	Cosset, J.M., "Resistive Radiofrequency (Low Frequency) Interstitial Heating (RF Technique), Interstitial Hyperthermia, 12/6/93, pp. 3-5, 37.						
	Attachment I: Competitive Literature on Generators with Bipolar Capabilities, IME Co., Ltd., pp. 60-86.						
	Attachment II: Competitive Literature on Bipolar Forceps and Footswitch Controls, IME Co., Ltd. pp. 87-104.						
EXAMINER			DATE CONSIDERED				
Kearney			6/3/2				

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<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	PATENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE	
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	5,382,247	1-17-95	Cimino et al.	606	33	1-21-94	
	5,397,304	3-14-95	Truckai	604	95	6-29-93	
	5,401,272	3-28-95	Perkins	606	15	2-16-94	
	5,415,633	5-16-95	Lazarus et al.	604	95	7-28-93	
	5,437,662	8-1-95	Nardella	606	40	2-17-94	
	5,451,223	9-19-95	Ben-Simhon	606	42	7-26-94	
	5,524,338	6-11-96	Martyniuk et al.	29	825	12-22-94	
	5,630,839	5-20-97	Corbett, III et al.	607	137	8-18-95	
	5,681,282	10-28-97	Eggers et al.	604	114	4-11-95	
	5,683,366	11-4-97	Eggers et al.	604	114	11-22-95	
	5,688,270	11-18-97	Yates et al.	606	51	1-18-95	
	5,697,909	12-16-97	Eggers et al.	604	114	1-2-95	
	<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>						
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	PATENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
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<div style="font-size: 2em;">✓</div>	WO 97/06855	27/02/97	PCT	A61N	1/40		
	WO 98/07468	26/02/98	PCT	A61N	1/40		
	0 257 116 A1	02/03/88	Europe	A61N	1/36		
	0 274 705 A1	20/07/88	Europe	A61M	23/00		XX
	0 521 595 A2	07/01/93	Europe	A61M	25/01		
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>							
EXAMINER <span style="font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;">Kearney</span>			DATE CONSIDERED <span style="font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;">6/3/2</span>				

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<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	PATENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE	
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	PATENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
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<i>DK</i> 	0 558 297 A2	01/09/93	Europe	A61M	25/00		
	0 566 450 A1	20/10/93	Europe	A61N	5/02		XX
	0 682 910 A1	22/11/95	Europe	A61B	1/00		XX
	0 729 730 A1	04/09/96	Europe	A61B	17/32		
	0 737 487 A2	16/10/96	Europe	A61M	25/01		
	0 783 903 A1	16/07/97	Europe	A61N	5/04		XX
	DE3511107A1	02/10/86	Germany	A61B	17/39		XX
	DE3632197A1	31/03/88	Germany	A61B	10/00		XX
	JP 5-42166	05/1993	Japan	A61B	17/39		XX
	2 164 473 A	19/03/86	Great Britain	A61B	17/36		
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>							
EXAMINER <i>Kanung</i>			DATE CONSIDERED <i>6/3/2</i>				

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<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>						
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	PATENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
	4,074,718	2/21/78	Morrison, Jr.	128	303.14	
	5,085,659	2/04/92	Rydell	606	47	
	5,437,661	8/01/95	Rieser	606	15	
	5,464,023	11/07/95	Viera	128	772	
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>						
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	PATENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	2 645 008	3/28/89	France	A61B	17/32	
	WO 93/16648	9/02/93	PCT	A61B	17/32	
	WO 95/25471	9/28/95	PCT	A61B	17/39	
	WO 95/30377	11/16/95	PCT	A61B	17/39	
	WO 95/34259	12/21/95	PCT	A61F	5/48	
	WO 96/11638	4/25/96	PCT	A61B	17/32	
	WO 96/32051	10/17/96	PCT	A61B	1/00	
	WO 96/34571	11/07/96	PCT	A61B	17/39	
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>						
	Trimedyn, The Less Invasive Laser Advantage, Omni Spinal Introduction System					
	PRNewswire ( Dec. 12, 1994), Two Physicians Perform First Outpatient Cervical Disc Procedure Using Laser Technology					
	Introduction to the LDD Disc Kit, Oct. 16, 1996					
	Mayer et al., Lasers in Percutaneous Disc Surgery: Beneficial Technology or Gimmick?, Vol. 25 No.251 (1993) pp. 38-44					
	Schatz et al., Preliminary Experience With Percutaneous Laser Disc Decompression in the Treatment of Sciatica, Vol. 38 No. 5, Oct. 1995, pp. 432-436					
	Savitz M. A., Same-day Microsurgical Arthroscopic lateral-approach Laser-assisted (SMALL) Fluoroscopic Discectomy, Vol. 80, June 1994 pp. 1039-1045					
	Bosacco et al., Functional Results of Percutaneous Laser Discectomy, Dec. 1996, pp. 825-828					
EXAMINER 			DATE CONSIDERED 6/3/2			

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EXAMINER	<i>Heum</i>			DATE CONSIDERED 6/3/5			

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